

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7887
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMCONSUL ADANA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
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CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WAHSDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJ: ECEVIT'S EFFORTS TO FORM NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT

REF: ANKARA 4635 (DTG 171330Z JUN 77)

1. TURKISH PRIMIN DESIGNATE BULENT ECEVIT ISSCHEDULED TO
MEET WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK AT 1700 HOURS LOCAL
TIME JUNE 20.TURKISH PRESS IS SPECULATING THAT THE PURPOSE
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OF THE MEETING IS THE PRESENTATION BY ECEVIT OF HIS PROPOSED
CABINET LIST FOR KORUTURK'SAPPROVAL. IF A CABINET LIST IS
PRESENTED, IT WILL PROBABLY BE COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY
OF MEMBERS OF ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP).

2. SINCE JUNE 17, ECEVIT HAS CONSULTED WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK
AND LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP), THE

REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) AND THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP). ECEVIT'S TWO-HOUR TWENTY-MINUT MEETING JUNE 17 WITH NSP LEADER ERBAKAN ENDED WITH ERBAKAN'S MAINTAINING THE NSP'S OPPOSITION TO A ONE-PARTY RPP GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH ERBAKAN HAD PREVIOUSLY HITED THAT AN RPP-NSP COALITION WAS POSSIBLE, HE REPORTEDLY TOLD ECEVIT THAT FOR THE PRESENT SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED. RBAKAN REPEATED HIS STATEMENT THAT AN RPP GOVERNMENT COULD NOT WIN MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.

3. ON JUNE 18 ECEVIT MET WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK TO INFORM HIM OF HIS PROGRESS IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT. KORUTURK GRANTED ECEVIT'S REQUEST FOR "A FEW MORE DAYS" FOR THE TASK. AFTER SEEING THE PRESIDENT, ECEVIT ARRANGED FOR A MEETING THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH JP LEADER, CARETAKER PRIMIN DEMIREL, LEADING TO SPECULATION (WHICH ECEVIT'S SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS APPEAR TO CONFIRM) THAT THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED AT THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST.

4. THE ECEVIT-DEMIREL MEETING JUNE 19 WAS DESCRIBED BY MANY PAPERS AS "PRO FORMA" AND PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE OF COOPERATION. DEMIREL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ECEVIT ASKED HIM TO "VIEW WITH UNDERSTANDING" THE GOVERNMENT HE WOULD FORM, TO ALLOW JP DEPUTIES TO VOTE AS THEY WISHED DURING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME JOINT EFFORTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. DEMIREL REJECTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECEVIT'S PROPOSALS AND TOLD THE PRESS THAT, SINCE THERE "CLEARLY 229 VOTES" AGAINST AN RPP GOVERNMENT, ECEVIT SHOULD GIVE UP HIS EFFORTS.

5. COMMENT: INSISTING THAT THE PRESIDENT CANNOT APPROVE AN RPP GOVERNMENT UNLESS IT CAN GUARANTEE ITSEFL A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY, THE JP AND NSP APPEAR TO BE MOTIVATED BY A BELIEF THAT, WHILE WAVERING MEMBERS OF THEIR PARTIES WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES PUBLICLY TO ECEVIT IN ADVANCE, SOME MIGHT BE WILLING TO SHIFT SIDES OR ABSTAIN IN AN ACTUAL CONFIDENCE VOTE. ALTHOUGH IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED BY THE PRESS THAT ECEVIT WILL PRESENT A CABINET LIST JUNE 20 AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL APPROVE IT, THERE IS SO FAR NO EVIDENCE THAT ECEVIT HAS BEEN ABLE TO COLLECT A GUARANTEED MAJORITY FOR A CONFIDENCE VOTE. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, PRESIDENT KORUTURK COULD DECIDE NOT TO APPROVE A SINGLE-PARTY RPP GOVERNMENT; IN THAT CASE, ECEVIT MIGHT BE TOLD TO TRY TO PUT TOGETHER A COALITION GOVERNMENT OR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT FORMATION MIGHT BE HANDED TO DEMIREL.
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